

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Dialogue 1

Context: Housing

Dave: Hi honey, I'm home.

Mary: Hi dear, how was your day?

Dave: It was OK, but I have some bad news.

Mary: What is it?

Dave: The landlord called me today. He said he is going to raise the rent next month.

Mary: What? How much?

Dave: He said he is going to charge us \$200 more per month.

Mary: That's ridiculous! We can't afford that!

Dave: I know, I know. But he said he has no choice. He said the property taxes have gone up and he needs to cover the costs.

Mary: Well, that's not fair. We have been living here for three years and we have never been late with the rent. We are good tenants.

Dave: I agree. But he said he is sorry and he hopes we can stay. He said he likes us and he thinks we are the best tenants in the building.

Mary: That's nice of him, but it doesn't help us much. We have to find a way to pay the rent or we have to move out.

Dave: I know, I know. But moving out is not easy either. We have to find a new place, pack our things, hire a truck, and pay a deposit. And we don't have much time.

Mary: You're right. Moving out is more expensive and stressful than staying here. But how can we pay the rent? We already have a tight budget.

Dave: Well, we have to cut some expenses and save some money. Maybe we can eat out less and cook more at home.

Mary: OK, that sounds reasonable. We can also cancel our cable TV and use Netflix instead.

Dave: Good idea. And maybe we can sell some of our old stuff online or at a garage sale.

Mary: Yeah, that could work. And maybe we can ask our boss for a raise or look for a second job.

Dave: Yeah, maybe. But we have to be careful not to work too hard and burn ourselves out.

Mary: True. We have to take care of our health and happiness too.

Dave: Yeah. We can do this, honey. We can overcome this challenge together.

Mary: Yes, we can. We are a strong team. We're stronger together.

Dialogue 2

Context: Housing

Lisa: Hi Nancy, I'm so happy that we are going to share a place together.

Nancy: Me too, Lisa. It's going to be the best.

Lisa: Yeah, it is. But first we have to find a place. Do you have any preferences for the neighborhood?

Nancy: Well, I want to live somewhere that is safer and cleaner than where I live now. I don't want to worry about more crime or more pollution.

Lisa: I agree. Safety and cleanliness are the most important. But what about the price? We have to find something that is cheaper too.

Nancy: That's true. We don't want to pay more on rent and utilities. We have to save some money for other things.

Lisa: Yeah, like food and entertainment. We have to enjoy our life more too.

Nancy: Exactly. So we have to find a balance between quality and cost. We have to look for the best value for our money.

Lisa: Right. But how do we do that? How do we compare different neighborhoods?

Nancy: Well, we can use some online tools and apps. They can show us the average rent, crime rate, air quality, and other factors for each neighborhood.

Lisa: Oh, that sounds useful. Do you have any recommendations?

Nancy: Yeah, I like this one called Neighborhood Scout. It's the easiest to use and it has the most information.

Lisa: OK, let's try it. Can you show me how it works?

Nancy: Sure. Here, look at my phone. You just type in the name of the city and then you can see a map of all the neighborhoods.

Lisa: Wow, that's cool. And then what?

Nancy: And then you can click on any neighborhood and see the details. Like this one here. It shows you the rent, the crime, the schools, the shops, and more.

Lisa: Wow, that's amazing. It's like a virtual tour of the neighborhood.

Nancy: Yeah, it is. And you can also compare different neighborhoods by using this slider here. You can adjust it according to your preferences and see which ones match your criteria.

Lisa: Oh, I see. That's very handy. Can we try it now?

Nancy: Sure, let's do it. What are your priorities?

Lisa: Well, I want to live somewhere that is safer, cleaner, cheaper, and closer to the campus than where I live now.

Nancy: OK, me too. Let's see what we can find.

Lisa: OK, let's go

Dialogue 3

Context: Housing

Mr. Walker: Good morning, class. Today we are going to talk about the cost of housing in different cities in America. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Student: Yes, Mr. Walker. I have a question.

Mr. Walker: OK, go ahead. What is your name?

Student: My name is Jake.

Mr. Walker: Nice to meet you, Jake. What is your question?

Jake: Well, I'm curious about why some cities are more expensive than others. For example, why is New York City the most expensive city in America?

Mr. Walker: That's a good question, Jake. There are many factors that affect the cost of housing in a city. Some of them are supply and demand, location, quality, and amenities.

Jake: Can you explain more?

Mr. Walker: Sure. Supply and demand means how many houses or apartments are available and how many people want to live there. If the supply is low and the demand is high, the price goes up. If the supply is high and the demand is low, the price goes down.

Jake: I see. So New York City has a low supply and a high demand?

Mr. Walker: Yes, exactly. New York City has a limited amount of land and a large population. Many people want to live there because of the opportunities, culture, and diversity. Therefore, the housing market is very competitive and expensive.

Jake: I understand. What about location?

Mr. Walker: Location means how close or far a house or apartment is from the center of the city or from other attractions. Usually, the closer it is, the more expensive it is. People pay more for convenience and accessibility.

Jake: I see. So New York City has a good location?

Mr. Walker: Yes, it does. New York City has many attractions such as museums, theaters, parks, and landmarks. It also has a good public transportation system that connects different parts of the city. Therefore, people pay more for living close to these places.

Jake: I understand. What about quality?

Mr. Walker: Quality means how new or old, big or small, nice or ugly a house or apartment is. Usually, the newer, bigger, and nicer it is, the more expensive it is. People pay more for comfort and style.

Jake: I see. So New York City has a high quality?

Mr. Walker: Well, not necessarily. New York City has a variety of housing options ranging from luxury penthouses to tiny studios. Some of them are very modern and elegant, while others are very old and rundown. Therefore, people pay more or less depending on the quality of their choice.

Jake: I understand. What about amenities?

Mr. Walker: Amenities means what extra features or services a house or apartment offers such as a pool, a gym, a parking space, or a doorman. Usually, the more amenities it has, the more expensive it is. People pay more for convenience and security.

Jake: I see. So New York City has a lot of amenities?

Mr. Walker: Yes, it does. New York City has many houses and apartments that offer various amenities such as rooftop gardens, fitness centers, laundry facilities, or concierge services. Therefore, people pay more for enjoying these benefits.

Jake: I understand. Thank you for explaining everything so clearly.

Mr. Walker: You're welcome, Jake. You asked very good questions and you learned very well.

Jake: Thank you very much.